

Introduction

In October of 1997 the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources began an effort to better understand and eventually recover the remains of an eighteenth-century shipwreck (31CR314) thought to be the *Queen Anne's Revenge (QAR)*. The location of the shipwreck site corresponds with where, in 1718, the wreck reportedly occurred. Analysis of the artifacts suggested an early eighteenth-century context for the wrecking event. Thirteen years after its discovery, and thousands of recovered artifacts later, nothing has been found to indicate the shipwreck site is anything other than the former flagship of Blackbeard the Pirate.

The following report introduces the cannon from site 31CR314 that have been conserved and analyzed through 2006. Small arms and ammunition will be addressed in separate reports. Artillery analysis can reveal information about both manufacturer and end user of the artifact. Manufacturing information comes from the artifact itself: composition, style, or markings. Information about the user comes more from their context within the site. For instance, the quantity and caliber of the artillery complement has significant implications relating to the size and purpose of a ship. This is one reason there was an emphasis from the beginning of the project to locate all of the cannon on the site.

By virtue of their relative size, it was easier to identify and obtain general information from cannons in situ than smaller artifacts encased in concretion and not visible. For this reason the artillery section is at this time more comprehensive than the small arms or ammunition section. As recovery and conservation progress larger samples of all artifacts will become available for study. Thus, this report should be considered preliminary because only five cannon of the twenty-five identified on the site have been fully cleaned and examined.

Artillery

When viewing the *QAR* shipwreck site map, the most prominent and readily identifiable artifacts are the artillery. During the first field season in 1997 all exposed guns were assigned designations (C1, C2, C3, etc.), tagged with that number and drawn into the site map. As new guns were discovered they were assigned sequential numbers. As of 2005 twenty-four cast iron artillery pieces had been located. Eight have been recovered and five of these have been cleaned and analyzed (see labeled guns, Figure 1). Dozens of iron shot have been recovered as well as thousands of lead shot. Rough dimensions of the seventeen guns remaining on the site were also obtained.

All recovered concretions were assigned field numbers when initially cataloged. Recovered artifacts were assigned accession numbers as entered into the database. Nevertheless, the research team has always thought of the guns in terms of their initial in situ designation (Cannon 1 or C1).